

**Remarks/Arguments**

Reconsideration of this application is requested.

Claims 1-21 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over George Gelfer (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0046194) in view of Ali Baghai et. al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,905,868).

Gelfer discloses the following in paragraph 0004.

"[0004] A postal system including a carrier for delivering mail and a franking machine is described in German OS 197 33 605 A1. For each piece of mail an identity certificate is produced by the franking machine containing information about the respective piece of mail, such as the required fee and mailing parameters. The identity certificate is printed on a self-adhesive label which is adhered to the piece of mail.

The information contained in the identity certificate can be used by the carrier for delivering and billing purposes by reading the data from the identity certificate in a data center of the carrier before delivering the piece of mail. Further, an identity code for the piece of mail can be included in the identity certificate, selectively in readable form or as a bar code, which may be used for searching for a piece of mail in case of mailing errors."

Gelfer creates an identity certificate that is printed on a self adhesive label which is affixed to the mail.

Gelfer discloses the following in paragraph 0007.

"[0007] These objects are achieved in a postal system and method according to the invention wherein a label is applied to the piece of mail, e. g. a letter, that contains some son of identity code, e. g. bar code information identifying one or more pieces of mail. This label is fixed on the letter before sending it, e. g. during the franking process, and wnm be removed from the letter and placed on a separate sheet of paper after delivery of the letter. The identity code will then be read when the carrier returns to the local post office, e. g. by using a scanner reading the bar code. It can then be used for tracking and tracing purposes, e. g. by sending a message to the sender informing the sender about the delivery. "

Gelfer avoids hand held scanning of the mail at the delivery point by having the carrier remove a label from the mail and place the label on a separate piece of paper after delivery of the letter. The foregoing is done for all mail that has labels. The labels are then read at the post office.

Baghai discloses the following in lines 26-34 of col. 2.

"A user that needs to monitor the performance of a particular process or task from more than one workstation typically runs a separate copy of the performance monitoring software on each workstation. Prior to the present invention, each copy of this software gathered performance data directly from the monitored process. As a consequence, the process is burdened with redundant monitoring workload, and exhibits a corresponding decline in performance relative to the user's production work."

Baghai utilizes a computer from more than one work station.

Gelfer and/or Baghai do not disclose or anticipate the invention claimed by applicant in claim 1 as amended and those claims dependent thereon.

The cited art does not disclose or anticipate the following steps of claim 1 as amended namely automatically detecting at the mail room the special service indicator on the mail item and determining the special service delivery required based on the detection of the special service indicator; applying at the mail room a unique office worker generated identifier to the mail item, the unique identifier including an electronic address of a company server; receiving from the carrier at the electronic address obtained by the carrier from the unique identifier on the mail item information relating to the location of the mail item;

An advantage of applicant's claimed invention over the cited art is that applicant makes it easier for the office worker to track mail through a carrier process without utilizing more than one work station like Baghai.

Claims 11-21 have been cancelled.

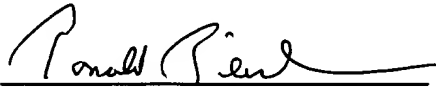
New claims 22-24 depend on claim 1, as amended, thus they should be allowable.

The art cited by the Examiner does not disclose or anticipate as a minimum steps f, g, h, i and j of new independent claim 25. Thus, claim 25 and those claims dependent thereon are patentable.

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In view of the above claims 1-10 as amended and new claims 22-29 are patentable.  
If the Examiner has any questions will the Examiner please call the undersigned at the  
telephone number noted below.

Respectfully submitted,



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